



BARNSTABLE DISABILITY COMMISSION

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Barnstable Disability Commission
Minutes
March 20, 2019
Hyannis Youth & Community Center
141 Bassett Lane Hyannis, MA 02601

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Sabrina Kane, Chair; Sheila Mulcahy, Vice Chair; Paul Logan; Steve Spillane; Marc Brunco; Tammy Cunningham; and Sarah Nicholson.

Members Excused: Paula Breagy; Denis Briand; and Linda McKinney.

Guests: Ruth Weil, Town Attorney; David Kanyock, Facilities Director for Barnstable Public Schools; Jonathan Sproul, President of Cape Abilities; Jan LaCasse; and Justin LaCasse.

Approval of the minutes of February 20, 2019 – Paul Logan moved to approve, Sarah Nicholson seconded.

Financial Report – Current balance is \$95,741.17. It was recommended that a thank you note be written to the printer for the completion of the posters.

Request for Funding from CORD – Steve Spillane recused himself from the discussion and vote. A request for donation was received from CORD to assist in the running of the mobile food pantry. The mobile food pantry travels from Provincetown to Falmouth parking in specific locations for registered participants to pick up food. All participants must register with CORD. The expansions to Falmouth area is a new. *Paul Logan made a motion to approve \$2000 to CORD for the mobile food pantry, Sheila Mulcahy seconded.* Steve Spillane recused from the vote.

Posters Sub-committee – No meeting currently scheduled. It was suggested that posters not just focus on ambulatory disabilities.

Dining Guide – Sarah Nicholson stated she felt that time and efforts would be served better elsewhere than on this project.

Scholarship Committee – Tabled until next month.

DPW Project Reviewer Sub Committee – Sabrina Kane stated she forwarded comments to Amanda Ruggiero, Interim Town Engineer.

Variance Requests – No report.

Report from Town Attorney on scope of BDC authority to file Administrative complaints – Attorney Ruth Weil informed the Commission that the Administrative Code authorizes the Commission to advise the Town Manager and Town Council on matters relating to disability related matters. Attorney Weil suggested contacting the Town Council office to be placed on the Town Council agenda. The Commission can then provide an update on role and what to provide to Town.

Attorney Weil stated authority is not given to the Commission to file administrative complaints. She added it is important to have a conversation and work with the Building Commissioner on standards that can and cannot be imposed. Attorney Weil stated she spoke with the Attorney General's office and they do accept complaints, however, the Department of Justice is the primary jurisdiction on the ADA. The Commission commented Brian Florence, Building Commissioner, was helpful in educating members on the triggers and enforcement of the ADA. A brief conversation was had on the smaller businesses out of compliance and non-responsive to requests to comply.

It was commented that the handicap parking signs need to be erected at St. George's Church in Centerville.

The BDC does not have authority to file a complaint with the AAB. If complaints are to be filed they would need to be filed by individual Commissioners. Paul Logan stated Brian Florence did a good job of educating Commissioners about the ADA triggers and thresholds. Sabrina Kane commented it may be more helpful to submit a form letter from the BDC to the AG about the smaller organizations not in compliance and non-responsive to requests for compliance. A discussion was then held on bringing the compliance to the Town Attorney's office.

A discussion then focused on an email from William Joyce of the AAB providing information on triggers for updating parking lots to compliance with the ADA. For the time being commissioners will continue to file complaints individually.

Request for funding from David Kanyock, BPS – During an event held by the symphony an attendee brought to their attention that the receiver did not work and had a lot of static. After receiving the complaint, David began investigating further. Half of the receivers worked. The attendee also suggested updating the system to new technology that is a Loop.

The current system was installed in 1986. There are currently 40 receivers and only half work. With the new system proposed to be installed, there will be 44 headsets and 11 loops. It is a portable amplifier that could be transported to another part of the building. The BDC asked how frequently the system is tested. David Kanyock had stated not in some time. It was recommended that the new system be tested more frequently to make sure it works. It was suggested that the availability of the devices be publicized on event materials and on signage.

Request for funding from Jonathan Sproul, Cape Abilities – Mr. Sproul informed the Commission that they would like to create a fully accessible kitchen for program participants in the cooking program. Renderings were provided to Commissioners. A discussion was then held on the drawings and the long term plan. As designed, it was determined that the new kitchen would not be fully accessible and a review needed to be done. The BDC provided Mr. Sproul with ideas to assist him on how best to proceed. They advised him coming back with a new drawing.

Funding Discussion – Paul Logan made a motion to grant \$5200 towards to the purchase of the loop listening assistive device with the stipulation that the availability of the device be included on publications/signage and routine testing be completed, Marc Brunco seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy L. Cunningham

The objective of the Barnstable Disability Commission is to advise and guide the Town of Barnstable the Town of Barnstable and the general public regarding issues of accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board. In addition, the Barnstable Disability Commission provides information and referral services to residents.